Supreme Court, U.S.
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No. OFFICE OF THE CLERK

In The

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1995

MAHMOOD YOONESSI, M.D.

Petitioner,

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (BUFFALO),
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO,
MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL,
ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER,
STEVEN B. SAMPLE,
WILLIAM R. GREINER,
JOHN P. NAUGHTON,
MYROSLAW M. HRESHCHYSHYN,
ANTONINA CANASSI,
MICHAEL COHEN,
TED JEWETT,
DEBORAH LICATA,
WILLIAM DILLON
PATRICIA K. DUFFNER,
LEO A. KANE,
DANIEL R. PIERONI,

Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

Mahmood Yoonessi, M.D.
335 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209
716-884-3995

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

Does Rule 60 (b) 6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure apply to the case at hand in order to grant relief from injustice?

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

Petitioner is Mahmood Yoonessi, M.D.

Respondents are State University of New York (Buffalo), Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Millard Fillmore Hospital, Erie Couty Medical Center, Steven B. Sample, William R. Greiner, John P. Naughton, Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn, Antonina Canassi, Michael Cohen, Ted Jewett, Deborah Licata, William Dillon, Patricia K. Duffner, Leo A. Kane, and Daniel R. Pieroni.

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No. 94-7974

In The

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1995

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.

Petitioner,

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (BUFFALO),
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO,
MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL,
ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER,
STEVEN B. SAMPLE,
WILLIAM R. GREINER,
JOHN P. NAUGHTON,
MYROSLAW M. HRESHCHYSHYN,
ANTONINA CANASSI,
MICHAEL COHEN,
TED JEWETT,
DEBORAH LICATA,
WILLIAM DILLON,
PATRICIA K. DUFFNER,
LEO A. KANE,
DANIEL R. PIERONI,

Respondents.

On Petition For Writ Of Certiorari To The United States Court Of Appeals For the Second Circuit

Petitioner, Mahmood M. Yoonessi, M.D., respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit's June 30, 1995 denial of petition filed herein by pro se Appellant Mahmood M. Yoonessi, M.D.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals is reported as United States Court of Appeals For the Second Circuit, No. 1312 - August Term, 1994.

JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §1343(3) and (4), which authorize federal courts to enforce rights, privileges and immunities derived from the Constitution and Laws of the United States and 28 U.S.C. §1331, which authorizes federal courts to adjudicate disputes arising under the Constitution and Laws of the United States; and jurisdiction is conferred by 5 U.S.C. 7703(f) and 28 U.S.C. §1254 for petition of writ of certiorari.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner, Mahmood M. Yoonessi, M.D., filed a notice of appeal from a final judgment of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, Richard J. Arcara, Judge, affirming the final

judgment of Magistrate Judge Carol E. Heckman, to whom the matter was referred on consent of the parties, see 28 U.S.C. §636(c)(1988), dismissing the complaint asserting claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (1988 and Supp. 111 1991) ("Title VII"), and 42 U.S.C. §1981, 1983, and 1985 (1988).

The merits of this case have yet to be addressed.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

Certiorari should be granted for several reasons. First, the merits of this case have never been addressed notwithstanding that petitioner's affidavit and July 27, 1994 Oral Argument assert charges of fraud and misconduct by the respondents that deprived the petitioner of a property interest, i.e. a tenured faculty position, (See Board of Regents v. Roth, 408, U.S. 594 (1972) and Perry v. Sindermann, 408, U.S. 593 (1972), wherein the United States Supreme Court established that faculty members have a right to a fair hearing whenever a personnel decision deprives them of a property interest or a liberty interest under the fifth amendment due process clause), and thousands of dollars of earned income.

Plaintiff can prove, moreover, that previous federal court decisions were based on perjured testimony and tainted records.

Petitioner asserts that respondents' Clinical Practice Management Plan (Plan) is

a fraudulent enterprise that has bilked him out of great sums of earned income. Petitioner has consistently asserted that he can prove fraud and misconduct by respondents but has been denied an opportunity to do so. The result has been injustice.

In Kapprott v. United States, 335 U.S. 601, this Court approved the use of Rule 60(b)(6) to vacate a default judgment entered against the petitioner. The Court stressed that courts should apply Rule 60(b)(6) whenever such action is appropriate to accomplish justice.

In Ackermann v. United States, 340 U.S. 193, this Court prohibited a court from utilizing Rule 60(b)(6) to relieve a party from a voluntary dismissed based only on financial hardship. In the instant case, there is not only loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but a misuse of a public trust, i.e., the fraudulent operation of a public university medical school and its affiliated Plan hospitals.

As set forth in Randall v. Merrill Lynch, 820F.2d1317 (D.C. Cir. 1987), Rule 60(b)(6) is the mechanism by which courts temper the finality of judgments with the necessity to distribute justice. Rule 60(b)(6) permits a court to relieve a party from a final judgment for reasons of justice.

Substantial sums of money have been misused by respondents with impunity. Because justice has been thwarted respondents have not accounted for misuse of great sums of money generated by petitioner.

Further, petitioner can prove that community health has been (is) at risk because of respondents' fraudulent misuse of money and misconduct. Respondent Millard Fillmore Hospital, for example, granted privileges to unqualified physicians as part of a subterfuge against petitioner. Erie County Medical Center, which at one time had a thriving gynecology service and a developing gynecologic oncology unit, was decimated because of its scheme to oust petitioner.

This Court should grant certiorari to rehear the petitioner's just cause against respondents. Previous decisions should not continue to frustrate justice.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the Court of Appeals in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mahmood Yoonessi

Mahmood Yoonessi, M.D.
Petitioner pro se

Dated: September 25, 1995
Buffalo, New York

CARL R. RIZZO
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK
QUALIFIED IN ERIE COUNTY
My Commission Expires 1/30/96

Carl R. Rizzo

CARL R. RIZZO
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK
QUALIFIED IN ERIE COUNTY
My Commission Expires

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

At a stated Term of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, held at the United States Courthouse, Foley Square, in the City of New York on the 30th day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-five.

Present:

Hon. Ellsworth A. VanGraafeiland,

Hon. Amalya L. Kearse,

Hon. Guido Calabresi,

CIRCUIT JUDGES

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.
Plaintiff-Appellant,

Docket No. 94-7974

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (BUFFALO), CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO, MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL, ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER, STEVEN B. SAMPLE, WILLIAM R. GREINER, JOHN P. NAUGHTON, MYROSLAW M. HRESHCHYSHYN, ANTONINA CANASSI, MICHAEL COHEN, TED JEWETT, DEBORAH LICATA, WILLIAM DILLON, PATRICIA K. DUFFNER, LEO A. KANE AND DANIEL R. PIERONI,
Defendants-Appellees.

A Petition for Rehearing having been filed herein by pro se Appellant Mahmood M. Yoonessi,

Upon consideration thereof, it is Ordered that said petition be and it hereby is DENIED.

FOR THE COURT
GEORGE LANGE III, CLERK
By

Beth J. Meador Date: 6/30/95
Administrative Attorney

APPENDIX "B"

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

No. 1312 - August Term, 1994

Argued May 24, 1995 Decided: May 30, 1995
Docket No. 94-7974

MAHMOOD YOONESSI, M.D.

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, at Buffalo; STEVEN B. SAMPLE, Individually, and in his capacity as former President, State University of New York at Buffalo; WILLIAM R. GREINER, Individually, and in his capacity as President, State University of New York at Buffalo; JOHN P. NAUGHTON, Individually, and in his capacity as Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; MYROSLAW M. HRESHCHYSHYN, Individually, and in his capacity as Chair, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Administrator of the Joint Venture, State University of New York at Buffalo and as Chair, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Millard Fillmore Hospital; ANTONINA CANAZZI, Individually, and in her capacity as Assistant to the Chair, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, State University of Buffalo, Children's Hospital; CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO; ROBERT PATERSON, Individually, and in his capacity as Clinical Chief, Department of Gynecology/Obstetrics, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; MILLARD

FILLMORE HOSPITAL, GATES CIRCLE; MICHAEL J. COHEN, Individually, and in his capacity as a former member of the Credentials Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; TED JEWETT, Individually, and in his capacity as a member of the Executive Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; DEBORAH LICATA, Individually, and in her capacity as former Secretary to the President of the Medical Staff Hospital of Buffalo; WILLIAM DILLON, Individually, and in his capacity as a member of the Credentials Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; PATRICIA K. DUFFNER, Individually, and in her capacity as a former member of the Credentials Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; LEO A. KANE, Individually, and in his capacity as a former member of the Credentials Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; DANIEL R. PIERONI, Individually, and in his capacity as a former member of the Credentials Committee, Children's Hospital of Buffalo; ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER, Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, New York; COUNTY OF ERIE, Erie County Medical Center,

Defendants-Appellees.

Before:

VAN GRAAFEILAND, KEARSE, and CALABRESI,

Circuit Judges.

Appeal from a judgment of the United States District Court for the Western

District of New York, Richard J. Arcara, Judge, affirming decision of magistrate judge dismissing complaint under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, and various civil rights statutes.

Appeal treated as a petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(5) for leave to appeal; petition denied.

MAHMOOD YOONESSI, M.D., Buffalo, New York, *Plaintiff-Appellant pro se.*

DENISE A. HARTMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Albany, New York (Dennis C. Vacco, Attorney General of the State of New York, Peter H. Schiff, Deputy Solicitor General, Nancy A. Spiegel, Assistant Attorney General, Albany, New York, on the brief), *for Defendants-Appellees State University of New York, Steven B. Sample, William R. Greiner, John P. Naughton, Antonina Canazzi, and Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn.*

KENNEY, KANALEY, SHELTON, NOTARO, LIPTAK & LAING, Buffalo, New York (Linda Callahan Laing, Michael J. Kanaley, Jr., Buffalo, New York, of counsel), *submitted a brief for Defendants-Appellees Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Robert Paterson, Michael J. Cohen, Ted Jewett, Deborah Licata, William Dillon, Patricia K. Duffner, Leo A. Kane, and Daniel R. Pieroni.*

FALK & SIEMER, Buffalo, New York (Mary K. Roach, Buffalo, New York, of counsel), *submitted a brief for Defendants-*

Appellees Millard Fillmore Hospital, Gates Circle, and Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn.

KENNETH A. SCHOETZ, Erie County Attorney, Buffalo, New York (Timothy J. Trost, Assistant County Attorney, Buffalo, New York, of counsel), *submitted a brief for Defendants-Appellees Erie County Medical Center and Erie County.*

Per Curiam:

Plaintiff Mahmood M. Yoonessi, M.D., who was initially represented by counsel in the district court but appears here *pro se*, has filed a notice of appeal from a final judgment of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, Richard J. Arcara, *Judge*, affirming the final judgment of Magistrate Judge Carol E. Heckman, to whom the matter was referred on consent of the parties, *see 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) (1988)*, dismissing the complaint asserting claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq. (1988 & Supp. III 1991) ("Title VII"), and 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, and 1985 (1988). The decision of the magistrate judge, which was affirmed on appeal to the district judge, principally dismissed plaintiff's claims against state entities on the ground of Eleventh Amendment immunity; dismissed the Title VII claims on the ground that plaintiff had failed to comply with the statutory prerequisite of filing his claim with the appropriate administrative agency; and dismissed the claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, and 1985 on statute-of-

limitations grounds. Plaintiff seeks review of these decisions.

Where a final judgment entered on the decision of the magistrate judge has been appealed to a district judge, the final judgment entered on the district judge's decision "may be reviewed by the appropriate United States court of appeals upon petition for leave to appeal by a party stating specific objections to the judgment." 28 U.S.C § 636(c)(5); see Fed. R. App. P.5.1(a). The party seeking review is required to file a petition for leave to appeal; that requirement is not satisfied by the filing of a notice of appeal. *Moore McCormack Lines, Inc. v. International Terminal Operating Co.*, 784 F.2d 1542, 1544 (1986). The filing of a notice of appeal instead of the required petition for leave to appeal is not a jurisdictional defect, however, and we have discretion to treat the notice of appeal as such a petition. See id.

In the present matter, in seeking review of the judgment of the district judge affirming the decision of the magistrate judge, plaintiff filed a notice of appeal rather than a petition for leave to appeal. Although this defect may perhaps be explainable by the fact that, in consenting to have the case referred to a magistrate judge, the parties stipulated that the decision of the magistrate judge could be appealed to both a district judge and this Court, that stipulation could not confer jurisdiction on this Court or compel this Court to accept the appeal following an appeal to a district judge. Nonetheless, having seen no indication that plaintiff has acted in bad faith or for purposes of delay,

or that defendants will suffer any prejudice, we exercise our discretion to treat the notice of appeal as a petition for leave to appeal, and we turn to the merits of the petition.

"An appeal on petition for leave to appeal is not a matter of right, but its allowance is a matter of sound judicial discretion." Fed. R. App. P. 5.1(a). We would grant such a petition in order to consider issues that "may have some jurisprudential significance," see *Moore McCormack Lines, Inc. v. International Terminal Operating Co.*, 784 F.2d at 1545, as where the magistrate judge and the district court have reached inconsistent conclusions as to what law applies, see id. at 1544, or where the magistrate judge and district court have decided a controlling question of law that has not been settled by this Court, or where there is a substantial likelihood that the decision of the district court is contrary to established precedent of this Court, see generally *Keller v. Petsock*, 849 F.2d 839, 844 n.8 (3d Cir. 1988) (petition should be granted only if it raises substantial issues of law); *Pushard v. Russell*, 815 F.2d 1,2 (1st Cir. 1987) (mem.) (same), cert. denied, 485 U.S. 965 (1988); *Adams v. Heckler*, 794 F.2d 303, 309-10 (7th Cir. 1986) (same); *Pennland v. Warren County Jail*, 759 F.2d 524, 529 (6th Cir. 1985) (en banc) (same). See also *Fuente Cigar, Ltd. v. Roadway Express, Inc.*, 925 F.2d 370, 373 (11th Cir. 1991) (per curiam) (petition may on occasion be granted where the magistrate judge has made findings of fact that the district court has found are clearly erroneous).

The present case does not meet these

standards. The legal principles applied by the magistrate judge and the district court are well established; the issues raised by plaintiff are not substantial. Accordingly, we deny the petition for leave to appeal.

APPENDIX "C"

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.

Plaintiff

93-CV-92A

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, et al

Defendants

D E C I S I O N

AND

O R D E R

Carol E. Heckman

United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.

Plaintiff,

93-CV-92A

DECISION AND ORDER

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, et al.,

Defendants.

APPEARANCES:

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KENNETH A. SCHOETZ
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TIMOTHY J. TROST, ESQ.
Assistant County Attorney, of Counsel
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All defendants have moved for dismissal of the complaint pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 12 and/or for summary judgment pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 56. The parties have consented to have the undersigned hear and decide these motions, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(4) (Item 21).

For the following reasons, defendants' motions are granted, and the case is dismissed in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is a gynecologic oncologist who became a member of the faculty of the School of Medicine at State University of New York at Buffalo ["SUNY"] on July 8, 1976. His complaint in this action alleges that on March 20, 1991, he was wrongfully

terminated by SUNY from his position as tenured Associate Professor as a result of the decision of an arbitrator for the State Office of Employee Relations. He also alleges that, based on this same arbitrator's decision, he was denied staff privileges at Children's Hospital of Buffalo and was denied the opportunity to apply for staff privileges at Millard Fillmore Hospital.

Plaintiff asserts that his employment was terminated or denied because he is of Iranian ethnic origin, in violation of the due process and equal protection clauses and in violation of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, 1985, and 2000e-2(a). He also alleges that he was deprived of substantial earnings by the faulty accounting and billing system employed by SUNY's Faculty Clinical Practice Management Plan. Named as defendants are SUNY and various of its officers (the "state defendants"), Children's Hospital and various of its officers ("Children's Hospital defendants"), Millard Fillmore Hospital and one of its officers, and Erie County Medical Center.

The factual background of the dispute is set forth at length in the arbitrator's decision, which is attached to the complaint as Exhibit A (Item 1). In 1984, during plaintiff's employment at SUNY, the medical school implemented its Clinical Practice Management Plan (the "Plan") under which full-time medical faculty were required to turn over earnings from clinical services performed at affiliated hospitals to help defray medical school overhead costs. The earnings were then distributed to the faculty member who performed the services, in accordance with a pre-arranged formula (Item 1, Exh.A, p.4).

Shortly after the Plan was implemented, plaintiff began to complain about the way funds were disbursed and earnings were reported. Unsatisfied with the responses to his complaints, plaintiff adopted a billing system for his clinical practice independent of the Plan's billing methods. This action resulted in a letter to plaintiff dated June 22, 1988 from defendant Dr. Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn, Chair of SUNY at Buffalo's Department of OB/GYN, and Dr. Donald Larson (not a defendant), SUNY at Buffalo's Associate Vice President for Clinical Affairs, which directed plaintiff to comply with the Plan billing practices within 30 days or face disciplinary action (*id.*, pp. 9-10).

Plaintiff responded by letter from his attorney dated August 3, 1988, which purported to explain plaintiff's reasons for refusing to bill his clinical work through the Plan billing system (*id.*, pp. 11-13). By letter dated August 15, 1988 from Clifford B. Wilson (SUNY's Vice President for Human Resources), plaintiff was given an additional 5 days to comply with the Plan billing practices (*id.*, pp. 13-15).

Plaintiff's continued refusal to comply resulted in a Notice of Discipline pursuant to the procedures set forth in the collective bargaining agreement then in effect between SUNY and the United University Professions, Inc. (*see* Item 23, Attachment D). The notice, dated August 30, 1988, and signed by defendant Steven B. Sample, President of SUNY at Buffalo, charged plaintiff with misconduct for failure to resume billing for patient services through the approved Plan billing agency, as previously directed. The penalty imposed

was termination of employment within ten days of receipt of the notice. The five reasons for termination set forth in the notice were as follows:

1. failure to resume billing for patient services through the approved Faculty Practice Plan billing agency;

2. failure to abide by Plan and departmental rules for receiving payments for patient services, and for banking and disbursement of Plan money;

3. failure to submit to the Plan billing agency all monies collected from patient billing since January 1, 1988;

4. failure to provide the Plan billing agency with documentation necessary to maintain his accounts from January 1, 1988; and,

5. failure to cease performance of medical procedures in non-University affiliated hospitals.

(Item 23, Exh.A).

On September 8, 1988, plaintiff filed a grievance with his union based on this Notice of Discipline. Pursuant to the grievance procedures in the collective bargaining agreement, hearings were held before a designated arbitrator in July and September, 1990. The union appeared on plaintiff's behalf.

In an award dated February 1, 1991, Arbitrator Thomas N. Rinaldo found that plaintiff had engaged in a persistent course

of insubordination, but that immediate termination was not appropriate because the insubordination did not affect his primary duties as an instructor. Plaintiff was given thirty days from the date of the union's receipt of the award to comply with SUNY's directives, as set forth in the Notice of Discipline. The arbitrator also found that if plaintiff did not comply within 30 days, SUNY could terminate him (*id.* pp. 21-28).

Plaintiff alleges that he attempted to comply with the conditions set forth in the award (*see* Item 16, Exh.J), but was terminated any way on March 20, 1991. On May 19, 1992, the union denied plaintiff's request to arbitrate the compliance issue (Item 1, Exh.C).

Plaintiff filed this action on January 29, 1993. The complaint sets forth five claims. First, plaintiff claims that he was discriminated and retaliated against on account of his ethnic origin, in violation of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983, 1985, 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII) and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. Second, plaintiff claims that SUNY terminated his appointment, Children's Hospital terminated his staff privileges, and Millard Fillmore denied his application for staff privileges without giving him the opportunity to be heard, in violation of his due process rights. Third, plaintiff claims that SUNY terminated his continuing appointment, and that Children's and Millard denied his staff privileges because of his ethnic origin, in violation of the equal protection clause. Fourth, plaintiff claims that he has suffered damages due to the Plan's failed billing system and SUNY's discriminatory conduct. Fifth, plaintiff claims that SUNY and the hospitals denied

him the opportunity for a "name-clearing" hearing, in violation of due process.

DISCUSSION

As an initial matter, all of the defendants have asserted statute of limitations as a ground for dismissal, and have submitted affidavits and exhibits in support of their limitations arguments. Since the discussion below deals substantially with statute of limitations questions, and since the court has considered the information contained in the affidavits and exhibits presented, the motions to dismiss are converted to motions for summary judgment under Rule 56. *See Rauch v. Day & Night Mfg. Corp.*, 576 F.2d 697, 702 (6th Cir. 1978); 2A *Moore's Federal Practice* ¶ 12.10, p. 12-87. The court has notified the parties of the conversion, and has allowed appropriate supplementation of the record. *Davis v. Bryan*, 810 F.2d 42,45 (2d Cir. 1987).

I. The State Defendants

The state defendants have moved to dismiss on grounds of eleventh amendment immunity, failure to exhaust administrative prerequisites for an employment discrimination claim, and failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985. Each of these grounds will be discussed in turn.

A. Eleventh Amendment Immunity.

The eleventh amendment provides that "[t]he Judicial Power of the United States

shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by citizens or Subjects of Any Foreign State." The Supreme Court has consistently held that the eleventh amendment's literal prohibition of suits against a state brought by citizens of another state extends as well to suits against a state brought by its own citizens. *See, e.g. Edelman v. Jordan*, 415 U.S. 651, 662-63 (1974).

Thus, in the absence of the state's consent to be sued in a federal forum, or congressional authorization to do so, any legal or equitable claims based on alleged constitutional violations brought by private parties against the state or one of its agencies or departments are proscribed by the eleventh amendment. *Pennhurst State School and Hospital v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 100 (1984). Since SUNY "is an integral part of the government of the State [of New York] and when it is sued it is the real party...," *State University of New York v. Syracuse University*, 285 A.D. 59,61,135 N.Y.S. 2d 539,542 (3rd Dept. 1954), and since SUNY has not consented to suit in this forum, *see Dube v. State University of New York*, 900 F.2d 587, 594 (2d Cir. 1990), *cert. denied sub nom. Wharton v. Dube*, U.S. , 111 S.Ct. 2814 (1991), no relief is available against SUNY for the constitutional violations alleged by plaintiff. Accordingly, the state defendants' motion to dismiss is granted to the extent that the complaint alleges constitutional violations against SUNY under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985.

This proscription extends to suits

based on constitutional violations for monetary damages against individuals acting in their official state capacities. Since "neither a State nor its officials acting in their official capacities are 'persons' under § 1983," they are not subject to liability for deprivations of constitutional rights under that statute. *Will v. Michigan Department of State Police*, 491 U.S. 58, 71 (1989); *Edelman v. Jordan, supra*, 415 U.S. at 677 (when a plaintiff sues a state official alleging violation of federal law, court may award an injunction directed to future conduct but not retroactive monetary relief); see also *Dube v. State University of New York, supra*, 900 F.2d at 595.

Additionally, a federal court's grant of injunctive relief against a state official may not be based on violations of state law. *Pennhurst, supra*, 465 U.S. at 106; *Dube, supra*, 900 F.2d at 595.

Thus, ,under established constitutional law, plaintiff's constitutional claims brought under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1985 against the individual state defendants acting in their official capacities for monetary damages, as well as for injunctive relief based on state law, must be dismissed. The complaint must also be dismissed as a matter of law to the extent it alleges constitutional claims for reinstatement against the individual state defendants in their personal capacities, since those persons are powerless to grant such relief.

To the extent the complaint alleges constitutional claims for reinstatement against the individual state defendants in their official capacities, and for monetary

relief against the individual state defendants in their personal capacities, those claims survive this aspect of the state defendants' motion, and will be discussed at further length below.

B. Title VII.

The eleventh amendment bar is not applicable to suits for monetary damages for employment discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. *Fitzpatrick v. Bitzer*, 427 U.S. 445 (1976); *Dwyer v. Regan*, 777 F.2d 825, 835 (2d Cir. 1985); *Ritzie v. City University of New York*, 703 F.Supp. 271, 277 (S.D.N.Y. 1989). However, the state defendants have moved to dismiss the Title VII claim against them based on plaintiff's failure to fulfill the statutory condition precedent of timely filing a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") or the New York State Division of Human Rights ("NYSDHR").

Plaintiff alleges in his complaint that he attempted to file such charges with the EEOC, but was denied the opportunity to do so because the EEOC investigator wrongly determined that plaintiff did not attempt to file charges until October 31, 1991, more than 300 days after the date of the alleged discrimination on August 30, 1988 (the date of the Notice of Discipline). Plaintiff alleges that the discrimination did not take place until June 9, 1992, the date on which the union's decision not to arbitrate the compliance issue became final, or at the earliest February 1, 1991, the date of the arbitrator's decision, or March 20, 1991, when his termination actually took effect.

The statutory scheme of Title VII

requires that individuals claiming discrimination first assert their claims at the agency level. *Miller v. International Telephone &Telegraph Corp.*, 755 F.2d 20 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 474 U.S. 851, *reh'g denied*, 474 U.S. 1015 (1985). Specifically, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5 requires that a party must file a timely charge with the EEOC or a qualified state deferral agency (such as NYSDHR) and obtain a right to sue letter as a condition precedent to filing a Title VII action. *Moche v. City University of New York*, 781 F.Supp. 160, 166 (E.D.N.Y. 1992), *aff'd*, 999 F.2d 538 (2d Cir. 1993). Under § 200e-5(e):

> A charge under this section shall be filed within one hundred eighty days after the alleged unlawful employment practice occurred..., except that in a case of an unlawful employment practice with respect to which the person aggrieved has initially instituted proceedings with a State or local agency with authority to grant or seek relief from such practice..., such charge shall be filed by or on behalf of the person aggrieved within three hundred days after the alleged unlawful employment practice occurred...

42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(e)(1)(as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Pub.L. 102-166).

In a state such as New York with a state anti-discrimination agency, the complainant has 300 days to file a complaint with the EEOC or NYSDHR. See 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(e); see also *Torres v. City*

University of New York, 56 Fair Emp.Prac. Cas. (BNA) 1171, 1991 WL 143359, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. 1991). Absent a legitimate waiver, estoppel, or equitable tolling, failure to file an agency charge within the applicable time period precludes a plaintiff from bringing a Title VII suit in federal court. *Zipes v. Trans World Airlines*, 455 U.S. 385, 392-98 (1982); *Moche v. City University of New York, supra*, 781 F.Supp. at 166-67. "Otherwise, a plaintiff would be able at his or her choosing to circumvent the Congressionally-created administrative scheme designed to facilitate compliance with or to settling disputes falling under Title VII." *Id.*

By letter dated May 6, 1992, EEOC Investigator Edith A. Arseneau notified plaintiff that his charge of discrimination against SUNY was untimely because he did not attempt to assert it until October 31, 1991 when he first visited the EEOC office, which was more than 300 days after the August 30, 1988 "alleged date of harm ..." (Item 1, Exh. B). The letter goes on to state that even though plaintiff was counseled on several occasions by the EEOC that his charge was untimely, plaintiff insisted that the EEOC allow him to file a charge (*id.*). Investigator Arseneau sent plaintiff a draft "Charge of Discrimination Form" for his review and signature.

Plaintiff does not allege, and the record does not indicate, that he ever followed through with filing the charge. He merely asserts that Investigator Arseneau's determination of untimeliness was incorrect.

Plaintiff's failure to file an administrative charge is fatal to his Title

VII complaint. But even if he had actually filed a charge when he attempted to do so on October 31, 1991, his charge would have been untimely.

The cases are clear that the time for filing a charge with the EEOC or state agency begins to run on the date the plaintiff received notice of the alleged discriminatory act, not on the date the decision actually takes effect. "The proper focus is upon the time of the discriminatory acts, not upon the time at which the consequences of the acts became most painful." *Abramson v. University of Hawaii*, 594 F.2d 202, 209 (9th Cir. 1979), *quoted in Delaware State College v. Ricks*, 449 U.S. 250, 258 (1989) (date of communication of tenure denial, not date of consequential termination one year later, was date on which 180-day period for filing charge with EEOc began to run). Thus, where there are no other allegations of illegal employment practices subsequent to the date the decision to terminate was made, the limitations period begins to run on that date, or on the date the employee was notified of the decision. *Ricks, supra* at 259; *Chardon v. Fernandez*, 454 U.S. 6, 8 (1981). The relevant date is the when the "operative decision" was made, since it is the decision, rather than the actual termination itself, which is the basis of a discrimination claim. *Mussington v. St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center*, 824 F.Supp. 427, 432 (S.D.N.Y. 1993).

Here, plaintiff was clearly notified of the decision to terminate his employment by means of the August 30, 1988 Notice of Discipline, which he received on September 1, 1988. See Moritz Affidavit, ¶ 7, attached

to Item 23. Plaintiff can point to no further discriminatory acts on the part of the state defendants subsequent to this date. The only alleged discrimination occurred--and the filing period began--at the time the decision to terminate was made by SUNY and communicated to plaintiff on August 30, 1988. This is so even though the effect of that decision--the eventual loss of employment at the medical school--did not finally occur until, March, 1991. See *Delaware State College v. Ricks, supra*, 449 U.S. at 258; see also *Miller v. IT&T Corp.*, 755 F.2d 20, 24 (2d Cir.) ("[T]he mere possibility that the decision might be reversed [i]s not enough to label it advisory or ineffective for time-bar purposes."), *cert. denied*, 474 U.S. 851 (1985). Since plaintiff did not attempt to file a charge until October, 1991, more than three years after notification of SUNY's decision to terminate him for failure to comply with the requirements of the Plan, he is precluded from bringing a claim for employment discrimination under Title VII in this court.

Furthermore, the filing and pendency of his grievance with the union did not toll the 300-day period for filing a charge with EEOC or NYSDHR. *Ricks, supra* at 261 (citing *Electrical Workers v. Robbins & Meyers, Inc.*, 429 U.S. 229, 236 (1976)). This is because contractual rights under a collective bargaining agreement are legally independent from statutory rights under Title VII. *Electrical Workers, supra*, 429 U.S. at 236. "In instituting an action under Title VII, the employee is not seeking review of the arbitrator's decision. Rather, he is asserting a statutory right independent of the arbitration process."

Alexander v. Gardner-Denver Cor., 415 U.S. 36, 54 (1974).

By admonishing plaintiff that his October, 1991 attempt to file his charge was untimely, the EEOC administrator did not subject plaintiff's claim to the principles of equitable tolling or waiver. For one thing, the administrator's determination of untimeliness was correct. As discussed above, plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known upon receipt of the Notice of Discipline in late August or early September, 1988 that he was being terminated from his tenured position at the medical school. All of the conduct complained of by plaintiff took place before the date of the Notice of Discipline. Instead of preserving his rights by filing a timely charge of discrimination with the EEOC or NYSDHR, plaintiff immediately pursued the independent grievance and arbitration procedures under the collective bargaining agreement. The EEOC administrator was correct in concluding that the collective bargaining procedures did not toll the running of the 300-day period.

For another thing, after advising plaintiff that his charge was untimely, the EEOC administrator nevertheless sent plaintiff a charge form so that he could at least follow through with his attempts to exhaust administrative remedies and obtain a right to sue letter. Plaintiff never submitted the completed form. In short, he never exhausted the administrative remedies required as a condition precedent to filing an employment discrimination claim in federal court, and he has not established any legally sufficient reason for failing to do so.

Finally, the record reveals that plaintiff was represented by counsel throughout the course of events complained of in the complaint. Plaintiff should therefore have been aware of the requirements for and conditions precedent to filing a federal lawsuit for employment discrimination.

Accordingly, plaintiff has failed to demonstrate any equitable reasons why his Title VII claim should be allowed to proceed despite his failure to exhaust the administrative remedies provided by that statute. *Cf. Tadros v. Coleman*, 717 F.Supp. 996, 1009 (S.D.N.Y. 1989),*aff'd.*, 898 F.2d 10 (2d Cir. 1990). Since there is no genuine issue as to plaintiff's failure to exhaust, the state defendants' motion for summary judgment on plaintiff's Title VII claim is granted, and that claim is dismissed as a matter of law.

C. 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985.

Plaintiff's claims against the SUNY defendants under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985, to the extent that these claims are "based on substantive rights distinct from Title VII..., "*Carrero v. New York City Housing Authority*, 890 F.2d 569, 576 (2d Cir. 1989), must also be dismissed as untimely. Actions under these statutes are governed by the state statute applicable to personal injury claims, which is three years in New York under CPLR § 214(5). *Day v. Morgenthau*, 909 F.2d 75, 78 (2d Cir. 1990); *Tadros v. Coleman, supra*, 898 F.2d at 12. The three-year period begins to run when the plaintiff knows or has reason to know of the injury which is the basis of the

action. *Barrett v. United States*, 689 F.2d 324, 333 (2d Cir. 1982), *cert. denied*, 462 U.S. 1131 (1983). In the context of a claim for wrongful termination of employment actionable under these statues, the limitations period begins to run when the employee receives notice that the decision to terminate has been made, not the point at which the termination ultimately becomes effective. *Chardon v. Fernandez, supra*, 454 U.S. at 8.

Here, as discussed above, plaintiff knew of SUNY's decision to terminate him, at the latest, upon receipt of the Notice of Discipline dated August 30, 1988. His claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 accrued at that time, and his filing of a grievance with the union did not toll the running of the statute. Further, the record provides no evidence of bad faith or deliberate misconduct by the state defendants during the limitations period to suggest that they delayed plaintiff's filing of a complaint or that they should otherwise be equitably estopped from asserting a statute of limitations defense. See *Tadros v. Coleman, supra*, 898 F.2d at 12. Therefore, plaintiff's filing of this action on January 29, 1993, nearly four years and five moths after receipt of the Notice of Discipline, was untimely.

This analysis applied as well to plaintiff's equal protection and due process claims asserted independent of § 1983, since § 1983 provides the exclusive remedy for securing redress of constitutional violations. *Pauk v. Board of Trustees of City University of New York*, 654 F.2d 856, 865 (2d Cir. 1981), *cert. denied*, 455 U.S. 1000 (1982); *Turpin v. Mailet*, 591 F.2d 426 (2d

Cir. 1979)(*en banc*); *Gleason v. McBride*, 715 F.Supp. 59, 62 (S.D.N.Y. 1988), *aff'd in relevant part*, 869 F.2d 688 (2d Cir. 1989).

Based on the foregoing, the state defendants' motion is granted in its entirety on the grounds of eleventh amendment immunity, failure to timely file an administrative claim prior to bringing a Title VII suit, and failure to timely file claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985. To the extent the complaint alleges claims against the state defendants based on state law, those claims are dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3) based on this court's dismissal of all claims against those defendants over which it has original federal jurisdiction. *Ying Jing Gan v. City of New York*, 996 F.2d 522, 535 (2d Cir. 1993); *Mussington v. St.Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, supra*, 824 F.Supp. at 424.

II. The Children's Hospital Defendants

A. Title VII.

To the extent the complaint alleges a claim against the Children's Hospital defendants pursuant to Title VII,[1] that claim must likewise be dismissed for failure to comply with the statutory requirements for filing a timely charge with the appropriate administrative agency, as discussed above in relation to the state defendants.

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[1] The Children's Hospital defendants assert that Title VII is inapplicable to them since Plaintiff was never employed by Children's Hospital, nor does Plaintiff allege that he was. However, since the complaint was untimely, the court need not reach this issue.

Plaintiff does not allege any specific dates in his complaint pertaining to the alleged discriminatory acts of the Children's Hospital defendants. He asserts in his memorandum in response to this motion that he was discriminated against by the Credentials Committee on January 12, 1989, when the committee failed to act on his application for reappointment. He further claims that he did not become aware of this discrimination until some later undisclosed date.

Defendants contend that the last act upon which an employment discrimination charge against these defendants could be based occurred on April 19, 1989, when plaintiff was notified that his appointment had expired as of December 31, 1988, and that he had not submitted a completed form for reappointment (*see* Item 9, Exh.D).
As discussed above, the timeliness of an employment discrimination claim brought under Title VII or §§ 1981, 1983 or 1985 is measured from the date the claimant received notice of the alleged discriminatory decision, not from the date the decision takes effect. *O'Malley v. GTE Serv. Corp.*, 758 F.2d 818, 820 (2d Cir. 1985). In order to bring a claim for employment discrimination under Title VII against the Children's Hospital defendants, plaintiff would have had to file a charge with the EEOC or the NYSDHR within 300 days of April 19, 1989, the date he was notified that he would not be reappointed. There is no indication in the record that plaintiff ever attempted to file an administrative charge against the Children's Hospital defendants.

Furthermore, plaintiff has failed to demonstrate any reason why the running of

the statutory time period should be equitably tolled. As discussed above, plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known as of August, 1988 that SUNY had made the decision to terminate his employment at the medical school. Plaintiff should also have known as of that date that he would need to take action to protect whatever staff privileges he may have been granted at area hospitals under SUNY's Faculty Clinical Practice Management Plan. The record indicates that plaintiff did nothing in this regard, but instead relied on the grievance and arbitration procedures in the collective bargaining agreement between his employer (SUNY) and his union. The hospital's failure to act on plaintiff's incomplete application, based in substantial part on plaintiff's own inaction, cannot be relied upon as the basis for a finding that the hospital was guilty of bad faith or misconduct in delaying the filing of plaintiff's administrative charge of employment discrimination against Children's Hospital.

At oral argument on the instant motions, plaintiff's counsel asserted for the first time that there is a discrepancy in the minutes of the Credentials Committee meeting on January 12, 1989. According to plaintiff, his copy of the minutes is significantly different than the copy submitted by counsel for the Children's Hospital defendants, indicating the possibility that the minutes may have been tampered with. Although not precisely stated in his pleadings, plaintiff apparently contends that this discrepancy in the minutes is evidence of bad faith during the limitations period requiring application of the principles of equitable estoppel or

tolling in order to allow his civil rights claims against Children's Hospital to proceed.

However, plaintiff has failed to produce any evidence that the alleged tampering occurred during the limitations period so as to invoke the "continuing violation" exception to Title VII's stringent time limits. See, e.g., *LaBeach v. Nestle Company, Inc.*, 658 F.Supp. 676, 686-87 (S.D.N.Y. 1987). Furthermore, in order to equitably estop the Children's Hospital defendants from asserting the limitations defense, plaintiff must produce some evidence of "'deliberate design' or of actions which [the employer]' should unmistakably have understood would cause the employee to delay filing his charge...'" *O'Malley v. GTE Serv. Corp., supra*, 758 F.2d at 822(quoting *Price v. Litton Business Systems, Inc.*, 694 F.2d 963, 965 (4th Cir. 1982). The discrepancy in the minutes cited by plaintiff, even if deliberately caused by the Children's Hospital defendants, is simply insufficient to invoke the equitable principles of tolling and estoppel in this case.

Accordingly, plaintiff's Title VII claim as against the Children's Hospital defendants is dismissed as a matter of law for failure to comply with that statute's requirements for timely filing a charge with the appropriate administrative agency.

B. 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985.

Based on the above discussion, the accrual date for claims under §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 against the Children's Hospital

defendants was April 19, 1989, when plaintiff was notified by Dr. Menchini that he would not be considered for reappointment until he submitted a completed application. Since plaintiff did not file his complaint in this action until January 29, 1993, more than three years and nine months after he received notice of the alleged discriminatory decision, these claims are barred by the three-year statute of limitations applicable under the authority cited above in relation to the state defendants.

Moreover, as discussed above, filing a union grievance does not suspend the running of either the statutory period for filing a charge of discrimination under Title VII or a claim under §§ 1981, 1983 or 1985.

Plaintiff argues that he should not be barred by the three-year statute of limitations since he did not know about the Credentials Committee's discriminatory policies at the time of the April 19, 1989 letter. However, plaintiff's self-serving, conclusory allegations, made without any specific factual support whatsoever, cannot be relied upon as a basis for tolling the statute of limitations until some unidentified date on which plaintiff allegedly discovered the existence of such a policy.

Accordingly, plaintiff's claims for relief under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 as against the Children's Hospital defendants are dismissed as a matter of law for failure to commence claims under those statutes within the applicable statute of limitations. As discussed above with regard to the state defendants, this analysis applies as well to plaintiff's equal

protection and due process claims asserted against the Children's Hospital defendants independent of § 1983, since § 1983 provides the exclusive remedy for securing redress of constitutional violations.

Finally, to the extent the complaint alleges claims against these defendants based on state law, the court declines to exercise supplementary jurisdiction over those claims since it has dismissed all claims against the Children's Hospital defendants over which it has original federal jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c))3). Consideration of the Children's defendants motion based on state law governing release from liability, immunity from suit under the state Public Health and Education Laws, and exhaustion of remedies under the state Public Health Law is therefore unnecessary.

III. ECMC.

By letter dated May 24, 1989, ECMC notified plaintiff that his "payline" would be abolished as of July 1, 1989 (Item 4, Exh. A). For the reasons set forth above, plaintiff's complaint against ECMC must therefore be dismissed for failure to file a timely charge with the appropriate administrative agency as required by Title VII, and for failure to bring an action under §§ 1981, 1983 or 1985 within three years of the alleged discriminatory acts.

IV. The Millard Fillmore Defendants.

A. Title VII.

Plaintiff's Title VII claims must also be dismissed as time-barred against the Millard Fillmore defendants, for

substantially the same reasons. The only essential difference is the alleged accrual date. By letter dated January 24, 1990, Edward T. Wenzke, Secretary of Millard Fillmore Hospital's Board of Directors, notified plaintiff that his request for a staff appointment and privileges had been denied because SUNY did not approve the appointment, as required by the hospital's "Agreement of Affiliation" with SUNY (Item 7, Exh. A). Plaintiff claims that he did not receive this letter until, at the earliest, February 1, 1990, since it was sent to the wrong address, and in any event he was out of town until approximately February 9, 1990 and did not actually receive the letter until he returned (plaintiff's affidavit, ¶ 11, attached to Item 23).

Taking plaintiff at his word, he had 300 days from February 9, 1990, to file a charge of employment discrimination with the appropriate agency under the statutory framework of Title VII, but failed to do so. He has offered no reasons, other than those already discussed and rejected above, why equity should allow this action to proceed under Title VII against these defendants in the absence of exhaustion of that statute's administrative remedies. Accordingly, plaintiff's claim that he was denied employment at Millard Fillmore Hospital because of his national origin must be dismissed for failure to file a timely administrative charge.

B. 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985.

If February 9, 1990 is accepted as the date plaintiff received notice of the alleged discriminatory conduct of the

Millard Fillmore defendants, plaintiff's claims against those defendants under §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 would not be time barred since they were filed within three years of that date. Thus, while §§ 1981, 1983 or 1985 cannot be used to circumvent the requirements of Title VII or "to gain perceived advantages not available to a Title VII claimant," *Saulpaugh v. Monroe Community Hospital*, No. 93-7122, -7204, slip. op. at 5692 (2d Cir. August 27, 1993), plaintiff can state cognizable claims under those statutes if he alleges some federal law or constitutional provision other than Title VII as the source of the right alleged to have been denied. *Id.;see Johnston v. Harris County Flood Control Dist.*, 869 F.2d 1565, 1575-76 (5th Cir.),*cert. denied*, 493 U.S. 1019 (1989).

Here, plaintiff has alleged generally that his application for staff privileges at Millard Fillmore Hospital "was unlawfully denied in violation of hospital by-laws and plaintiff's civil rights" (Item 1, ¶ III(5)). The complaint can also be liberally read to allege that Millard Fillmore (and Dr. Hreshchyshyn, as Chair of Millard's OB/GYN Department) denied him due process by denying staff privileges without a hearing (*id.*,¶¶ VI(30),IX(38)), and denied him equal protection based on his Iranian origin (*id.*, ¶¶ VII(31-34)), in violation of his liberty and property rights under the fifth and fourteenth amendments.

However, the courts in the Second Circuit have consistently held that complaints relying on the civil rights statutes are plainly insufficient unless they contain some specific allegations of fact indicating a deprivation of the plaintiff's

civil rights, rather than state simple conclusions. *Fonte v. Board of Managers of Continental Towers Condominium*, 848 F.2d 24, 25 (2d Cir. 1988); *Martin v. New York State Dept. of Mental Hygiene*, 588 F.2d 371, 372 (2d Cir. 1978); *Omni Group Farms, Inc. v. County of Cayuga*, 766 F.Supp. 69, 72 (N.D.N.Y. 1991). The allegations of constitutional violations must be amplified by specific factual allegations indicating a deprivation of civil rights, rather than conclusory, vague or general allegations that the plaintiff was denied a hearing or was not hired "because of" his national origin. *Alfaro Motors, Inc. v. Ward*, 814 F.2d 883, 887 (2d Cir. 1987) (complaint alleging denial of "prompt administrative hearing" insufficient under § 1983); *Martin, supra*, 588 F.2d at 372) complaint alleging denial of salary and privileges commensurate with his position because of his race insufficient under Title VII).

In the instant case, the complaint is totally devoid of allegations essential to pleading claims for relief under §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 against the Millard Fillmore defendants. In order to state a claim for employment discrimination under § 1981, plaintiff must allege: (i) that he belongs to a racial minority; (ii) that he applied and was qualified for a job for which Millard Fillmore was seeking applicants; (iii) that, despite his qualifications, he was rejected; and (iv) that, after his rejection, the position remained open and Millard Fillmore continued to seek applicants from persons of plaintiff's qualifications. See, e.g., *Scarlett v. Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Co.*, 676 F.2d 1043, 1052 n. 26 (5th Cir. 1982)(citing *McDonnell Douglas Corp v. Green*, 411 U.S. 792, 802 (1973)). As

discussed above, plaintiff's complaint against the Millard Fillmore defendants alleges none of these elements.

In order to state a cause of action under § 1983, plaintiff must allege that the Millard Fillmore defendants deprived him of a right, privilege or immunity "secured by the Constitution and laws" of the United States, and that those defendants deprived him of this right acting "under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage" of the State of New York. 42 U.S.C. § 1983; see *Flagg Brothers, Inc. v. Brooks*, 436 U.S. 149, 155-56 (1978). Beyond its failure to allege how the Millard Fillmore defendants qualify as "state actors" subject to § 1983 liability, *id.* at 156-57, the complaint also fails to allege how denial of medical staff privileges at Millard Fillmore Hospital deprived plaintiff of a federally protected property or liberty interest. Such allegations are essential in order for plaintiff to maintain this action in this court. *See, e.g., DiMarco v. Rome Hospital*, No. 88-CV-1258, 1991 WL 336000 (N.D.N.Y. 1991)(denial of medical privileges did not rise to the level of a protected property or liberty interest triggering due process protection), *appeal dismissed*, 952 F.2d 661 (2d Cir. 1991). Again, as discussed above, the allegations in the complaint against the Millard Fillmore defendants fail miserably in this regard.

Further, since plaintiff has failed to sufficiently allege deprivation of a federally protected interest, he has likewise failed to allege a cause of action under § 1985 for conspiracy to interfere with his civil rights. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3); *see also Traggis v. St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church*, 851

F.2d 584, 586-87 (2d Cir. 1988)(citing *Griffin v. Breckenridge*, 403 U.S. 88, 102-03 (1970).

Finally, while the usual practice is to allow leave to replead a deficient complaint, see Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a); *see also Ronzani v. Sanofi S.A.*, 899 F.2d 195, 198 (2d Cir. 1990), leave may be denied where the amendment would be futile since the plaintiff is unable to allege any fact sufficient to support his or her claim. *Cortec Industries, Inc. v. Sum Holding L.P.*, 949 F.2d 42, 48, 50 (2d Cir. 1991), *cert. denied sub nom. Cortec Industries, Inc. v. Westinghouse Credit Corp.*, __ U.S. __, 112 S.Ct. 1561 (1991); 3 Moore's Federal Practice ¶ 15.08[4] (1992 ed.). Under the above analysis of plaintiff's claims against the Millard Fillmore defendants, I find that plaintiff would be unable to amend the complaint so as to cure the defective claims against those defendants under any of the federal civil rights statutes cited. Accordingly, since amendment would be futile, plaintiff's claims under §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985 against the Millard Fillmore defendants must be dismissed with prejudice. To the extent the complaint alleges claims against these defendants based on state law, the court declines to exercise supplementary jurisdiction over those claims since it has dismissed all claims against the Millard Fillmore defendants over which it has original federal jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the complaint must be dismissed in its entirety. There is no genuine issue of material fact as to plaintiff's failure to timely exhaust Title VII's statutory administrative remedies against any of the defendants, or his failure to assert timely claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985, against the state defendants, the Children's Hospital defendants, or ECMC. Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 56, summary judgment is entered as a matter of law in favor of the state defendants, the Children's Hospital defendants, and ECMC, dismissing the complaint in its entirety. Summary judgment is also entered as a matter of law dismissing the Title VII claims against the Millard Fillmore defendants. The remaining claims against the Millard Fillmore defendants are dismissed pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) for failure to state claims upon which relief can be granted under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1983 and 1985. Finally, to the extent the complaint alleges claims based on state law, it is dismissed for failure of supplemental jurisdiction.

SO ORDERED.

CAROL E. HECKMAN
United States Magistrate Judge

DATED: Buffalo, New York
November 22, 1993

APPENDIX "D"

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MAHMOOD YOONESSI, M.D.
Plaintiff,

DECISION AND ORDER
93-CV-0092A

v.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, et al

Defendants.

This case is currently before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(4) and Rule 30(b)(2)(B) of the Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, on an appeal by the plaintiff, Mahmood M. Yoonessi, from a judgment entered by order of United States Magistrate Judge Carol E. Heckman on November 30, 1993. The complaint in this action was filed on January 29, 1993. All the defendants in the case eventually moved to dismiss the complaint. On June 7, 1993, the Court referred the case to Magistrate Judge Heckman for all pretrial matters, and to hear and report upon dispositive motions. On August 17, 1993 the parties, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1), consented to have Magistrate Judge Heckman conduct any and all proceedings in this matter and to order entry of judgment in the case. The parties reserved the right to appeal the judgment to this Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. See Item No. 21. In a Decision and Order dated November 22, 1993, Magistrate Judge

Heckman granted defendants summary judgment pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 56. It is from Magistrate Judge Heckman's Decision and Order of November 22, 1993 and subsequent judgment that plaintiff now appeals. The parties have been given an opportunity to brief and argue their respective positions.[1]

In an appeal from a judgment ordered entered by a Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1), the district court must consider the appeal in the same manner as an appeal from a judgment of the district court to the court of appeals. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(4) and Rule 30(b)(2)(B)(v) of the Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. When reviewing a district court's grant of summary judgment, the court of appeals applies a de novo standard of review, assessing the record in the light most favorable to the non-moving party and applying the same standard as that applied by the district court. See Commercial Union Assurance Co. v. Milken, 17 F.3d 608, 611 (2d Cir. 1994). Under Fed. R. Civ. P.56(c), summary judgment shall be granted if there is no genuine issue of material fact and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.

After reviewing the submissions of the parties, hearing oral argument, and reviewing the record in this case de novo, the Court affirms the Judgment ordered entered by Magistrate Judge Heckman on

---

1. Plaintiff chose to argue his case at oral argument himself rather than to have his attorney represent him. See Item No. 40.

November 30, 1993 for the reasons articulated in her Decision and Order dated November 22, 1993.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

HONORABLE RICHARD J. ARCARA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Dated: August 26, 1994

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Docket No. 95-877

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
October Term, 1995

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.

Petitioner

vs.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, STEVEN B. SAMPLE, WILLIAM R. GREINER, JOHN P. NAUGHTON, MYROSLAW M. HRESCHCHYSHYN, ANTONINA CANAZZI, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO, ROBERT PATTERSON, MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL, GATES CIRCLE, MICHAEL COHEN, TED JEWETT, DEBORAH LICATA, WILLIAM DILLON, PATRICK K. DUFFNER, LEO A. KANE, DANIEL R. PIERONI ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER and COUNTY OF ERIE

Respondents.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR CERTIORARI ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO, ROBERT PATTERSON, MICHAEL COHEN, TED JEWETT, DEBORAH LICATA, WILLIAM DILLON, PATRICK K. DUFFNER, LEO A. KANE and DANIEL R. PIERONI

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LIST OF PARTIES

Upon information and belief, petitioner seeks review as against the following parties, including Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Robert Patterson, Michael Cohen, Ted Jewett, Deborah Licata, William Dillon, Patricia K. Duffner, Leo A. Kane and Daniel R. Pieroni:

State University of New York

Steven B. Sample

William R. Greiner

John P. Naughton

Myroslaw M. Hreshchyshyn

Antonina Canazzi

Children's Hospital of Buffalo

Robert Patterson

Millard Fillmore Hospital

Michael Cohen

Ted Jewett

Deborah Licata

William Dillon

Patricia K. Duffner

Leo A. Kane

Daniel R. Pieroni

The Erie County Medical Center.

County of Erie

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Whether Petitioner May Raise a Motion Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b)(6) to the United States Supreme Court Absent Previous Application to the District Court on 60(b) Grounds.

   Answer: No.

2. Whether the District Court's Grant of Summary Judgment to the CHOB Respondents was Proper as Recognized by the Second Circuit by Their Denial of Petitioner's Application for Leave to Appeal.

   Answer: Yes.

3. Whether Special and Important Reasons Exist to Warrant the Exercise of this Court's Jurisdiction.

   Answer: No.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This Statement of the Case is limited to a brief recitation of the pertinent facts and procedural background as relates to respondents Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Robert Patterson, Michael Cohen, Ted Jewett, Deborah Licata, William Dillon, Patricia Duffner and Daniel R. Pieroni (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the CHOB respondents".[1]

Petitioner, a gynecologist, was employed by the State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of Gynecology/Obstetrics and the Erie County Medical Center. Until December 31, 1988, petitioner was also a member of the Children's Hospital Medical Staff and had clinical privileges at Children's Hospital. Petitioner was never an employee of Children's Hospital. By letter dated April 19, 1989, Children's Hospital advised petitioner that his appointment to the medical staff and clinical privileges had expired on December 31, 1988 and that he would have to reapply if he wished to have staff membership and clinical privileges. Petitioner failed to submit an application for reappointment or otherwise respond to the April 19, 1989 letter resulting in termination of his staff membership and clinical privileges.

On or about January 29, 1993, petitioner brought this action on several counts, all of which are primary based on employment and discrimination, wrongful termination of

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[1] The respondent, Children's Hospital of Buffalo shall be referred to as "Children's Hospital" when referred to separately from the other CHOB respondents.

employment and/or violation of due process and equal protection rights.[2] As against Children's Hospital, petitioner claims discrimination based on his Iranian origin and wrongful termination of staff privileges. Violations of 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (Title VII), 42 U.S.C. §§1981, 1983 and 1985, constitutional rights to due process and equal protection and New York State statutory and common law are alleged to have been occasioned by Children's Hospital.

It is unclear why the individual CHOB respondents, Patterson, Cohen, Jewett, Licata, Dillon, Duffner, Kane and Pieroni have been sued other than in connection with their position at Children's Hospital and any role they may have played in not accepting petitioner's incomplete application for reappointment on staff.

The CHOB respondents moved to dismiss petitioner's complaint pursuant to F.R.C.P. 12(b)(1), (2) and (6). All other respondents similarly moved to dismiss the complaint. The parties consented to have Magistrate Heckman hear and decide the motions. On notice to the parties, Magistrate Heckman converted the motions to dismiss to summary judgment motions under Rule 56.

Magistrate Heckman granted all respondents' motions for summary judgment with prejudice, and entered a decision and order, and, a final judgment, on November 30, 1993. Magistrate Heckman dismissed the employment discrimination claims against the CHOB respondents on the grounds that petitioner failed to meet the statutory condition precedent to

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[2] In addition to allegations pertaining to his medical staff membership and clinical privileges at Children's Hospital, petitioner's complaint contains allegations pertaining to: 1) his employment by, academic status at and participation in the Clinical Practice Plan of the State University of New York at Buffalo; 2) his employment status at the Erie County Medical Center and Buffalo General Hospital; and 3) his staff membership and clinical privileges at Millard Fillmore Hospital.

bringing suit in federal court by his failure to timely file a charge with the appropriate administrative agency. Magistrate Heckman dismissed the other constitutional claims against the CHOB respondents on the grounds that the applicable Statute of Limitations bars petitioner from pursuing his claims.[3]

By order of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York (Arcara, J.), dated August 26, 1994, and filed September 1, 1994, Magistrate Heckman's decision, order and final judgment granting respondents' motions for summary judgment was affirmed.

By decision dated May 30, 1995 and judgment entered the same day, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit denied petitioner's petition for leave to appeal. Petitioner's petition for rehearing was denied by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by order dated June 30, 1995 and filed the same day.

Petitioner seeks a writ of certiorari as set forth in his petition dated September 25, 1995 and filed in the Supreme Court of the United States on September 28, 1995. Petitioner was initially represented by counsel in the District Court but thereafter appeared pro se and makes this application pro se. This brief is submitted in opposition to said petition.

For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully requested that the petition be denied in its entirety as neither special nor important reasons support the petition. Moreover, the decisions of the District Court and the Second Circuit were properly made.

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[3] The state claims were properly dismissed by Magistrate Heckman for lack of jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. §1367(c)(3).

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The District Court's grant of summary judgment pursuant to Fed.R.Civ. P.56 to the CHOB respondents was proper. Neither special nor important reasons exist to support the petition for certiorari. Petitioner's attempted motion pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b)(6) is untimely and the Supreme Court of the United States is without jurisdiction to entertain such motion. Accordingly, the petition should be denied in its entirety.

I.

Petitioner's motion pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b)(6) is untimely and the Supreme Court of the United States lacks jurisdiction to entertain such motion.

Petitioner states the "Questions Presented" as whether Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b)(6) applies to the case at hand to grant relief from injustice. In that section of his petition entitled "Reasons for Granting the Writ" petitioner alleges fraud and misconduct concerning the respondents Clinical Practice Management Plan.

The following arguments are presented to the extent petitioner intends his petition to serve as a motion pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b)(6) and/or the Court interprets the petition to constitute such a motion.

Fed.R.Civ.Proc. 60(b) permits a district court to relieve a party of a final judgment for any one of five specified reasons or for "any other reason justifying relief from the operation of the judgment". The first three of the five specified reasons are: (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise or excusable neglect; (2) newly discovered evidence which by due diligence could not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule 59(b); and (3) fraud (whether heretofore, denominated intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation or other misconduct of an averse party. To take advantage of any of these three reasons the Rule requires a litigant to seek relief "not more than one year after the judgment, order or proceeding was entered or taken."

In the instant case, the one-year limitation bars petitioner because the petition to set aside the judgment shows, at most, nothing but fraud and misconduct. The petitioner can not avail

himself of the broad "any other reason" clause of 60(b)(6) as he attempts to do.

The judgment which is the subject of this petition is the order of the District Court entered on November 30, 1993 granting summary judgment to the CHOB and other respondents. Petitioner's instant attempt to make a 60(b)(6) motion is accordingly untimely and inappropriately made for the first time to the United States Supreme Court.

Additionally, it is significant that the allegations of fraud and misconduct are made with respect to the Clinical Practice Management Plan. This record contains no evidence that the CHOB respondents had any involvement in this Plan.

Petitioner simply seeks further reconsideration of his claims by the District Court without indicating any change of circumstances. In fact, petitioner admits that his assertions of fraud and misconduct have been "consistently asserted". Thus, the proper way for petitioner to challenge the District Court's ruling was through appeal, and not by a 60(b)(6) motion made after his appeal was unsuccessfully made.

II.

Special and Important Reasons do not Exist to Warrant the Exercise of this Court's Discretion.

"A review of writ of certiorari is not a matter of right, but of judicial discretion. A petition for writ of certiorari will be granted only when there are special and important reasons therefore." Sup.Ct.R. 10. There are not special and important reasons justifying a review on writ of certiorari in the instant case. The District Court's decision does not conflict with the decisions of any other United States Courts of Appeals on the same matter; nor did it decide a federal question in a way which conflicts with the State Court of last resort; nor did it depart from the accepted and usual course of judicial proceedings as to warrant exercise of the discretion of this Court. Further, the District Court did not decide an important question of federal law which has yet to be settled by this court or which conflicts with applicable decisions of this court. Sup.Ct.R. 10. As demonstrated by the subsequent sections of this argument, the grant of summary judgment by the District Court to the CHOB respondents was appropriate, as recognized by the Second Circuit by its decision denying petitioner leave to appeal.

Petitioner seeks this writ stating that he can prove fraud and misconduct by respondents, specifically with respect to the Clinical Practice Management Plan. The gravamen of petitioner's claim is that he was fraudulently deprived of income. Thus, the grounds of his petition affect not the public but only some, and significantly not all,[4] the parties to this action. This is unchanged by petitioner's bald assertion, made for the first time to the United States

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[4] As above, the CHOB respondents had no involvement in the Clinical Practice Management Plan.

Supreme Court, that community health has thus been placed at risk. "Special and important reasons" which would justify granting a writ of certiorari by the Supreme Court implies a problem beyond the academic or episodic. Rice v. Sioux City Memorial Park Cemetery, Inc., 349 U.S. 70, 99 L.Ed. 897, 75 S.Ct. 614 (1955). Even assuming arguendo the truth of petitioner's allegations, his problem is episodic in nature and not one which justifies granting of a writ of certiorari by this Court.

III.

As Recognized by the Second Circuit in its Denial to Petitioner of Leave to Appeal, the District Court's Grant of Summary Judgment to the CHOB Respondents was Proper.

As set forth below, the District Court relied on well established case law and principles in considering the CHOB respondents' motion for summary judgment. None of the issue raised or decided meet the criteria set forth in Sup.Ct.R. 10 to justify granting the petition. Accordingly, the petition should be dismissed in its entirety.

A. Magistrate Heckman properly dismissed plaintiff's claims against the CHOB respondents for failure to timely file a claim with the proper administrative agency, and/or because they were barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

Where there are no disputed issues of fact, the granting of summary judgment is entirely proper. Whelan v. New Mexico Western Oil & Gas Co., 226 F.2d 156, 159 (10th Cir. 1955); Stanford v. Kuwait Airways Corp., 648 F.Supp. 1158, 1160 (S.D.N.Y. 1986). "[C]ourts should not be reluctant to grant summary judgment in appropriate cases since '[o]ne of the principal purposes of the summary judgment rule is to isolate and dispose of factually unsupported claims,' Celotex Corp. v. Cateret, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24, 106 S.Ct. 2548, 2553, 91 L.Ed.2d 265 (1986), thereby permitting courts to avoid '. . . protracted, expensive and harassing trials.' [Citation omitted]." Witter v. Abell-Howe Co., 765 F.Supp. 1144, 1147 (W.D.N.Y. 1991).

In the instant case, petitioner's complaint asserts five counts for relief, four of which are asserted against the CHOB respondents. The crux of the claims can be summarized as follows. Petitioner claims that his termination was wrongful because he was discriminated against based

on his ethnic origin in violation of 42 U.S.C. §§1981, 1983, 1985, 2000e (Title VII), and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. He further claims that his staff privileges were terminated without due process and in violation of the equal protection clause. He also asserts that he was denied an opportunity for a "name-clearing" hearing. Magistrate Heckman granted an order dismissing the complaint as against the CHOB respondents based on the Statute of Limitations bar and the failure to timely file a claim with the proper administrative agency.

Petitioner's Employment Discrimination Claims are Barred for Failure to Timely File a Charge with the Appropriate Administrative Agency.

In order to assert a claim for relief in federal court based on a violation of Title VII, petitioner must have filed a claim with the proper administrative agency, i.e., the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") or the New York State Human Division of Rights ("NYSDHR"). Moche v. City Univ. of New York, 781 F.Supp. 160, 166 (E.D.N.Y. 1992) *aff'd.*, 999 F.2d 538 (2d Cir. 1993); Tadros v. Coleman, 717 F.Supp. 996 (S.D.N.Y. 1989) *aff'd.*, 898 F.2d 10 *cert. denied*, 111 S.Ct. 186 (1990). The statute requires that such a claim be filed within 300 days from the date on which plaintiff received notice of the alleged discriminatory act. 42 U.S.C. §2000e-5(e); Tadros, supra, 717 F.Supp. at 1006-1007.

In the instant case, petitioner's complaint does not allege a specific date pertaining to any alleged discriminatory act of the CHOB respondents. Rather, in opposition to respondents motion, petitioner asserted that he was discriminated against by the Children's Hospital's Credentials Committee on January 12, 1989, when the Committee failed to act on his application for reappointment. He also asserted that he did not learn of the discriminatory act until a "later undisclosed date." However, on April 19, 1989, Dr. John P. Menchini, President of the

Medical/Dental Staff at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo, issued a letter to petitioner, advising him that his appointment had expired as of December 31, 1988. The Hospital advised petitioner that because he had not submitted a completed form for reappointment, he would have to reapply. In dismissing the complaint, Magistrate Heckman properly held that the accrual of the claim occurred when petitioner received this notice, not when it took effect. O'Malley v. GTE Serv. Corp., 758 F.2d 818, 820 (2d Cir. 1985). Thus, plaintiff's claim accrued, at the latest, on April 19, 1989. Petitioner has not disputed that he received this notice.

The record is devoid of any evidence that petitioner filed a claim with the proper administrative agency after receiving this notice. Petitioner's assertion that he filed a claim with the Public Health Council does not fulfill the requirements of the statute. In order to sue in federal court under Title VII, petitioner must have filed a complaint with the appropriate administrative agency, not merely an administrative agency. Thus, the failure to file a claim with the EEOC or the NYSDHR within 300 days of April 19, 1989 bars any claim for employment discrimination under either Title VII or 42 U.S.C. §§1981, 1983 or 1985.

B. Petitioner's Claims for Substantive Violations of 42 U.S.C. §§1981, 1983, 1985 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 are Barred by the Applicable Statute of Limitations.

Petitioner's claims for violation of any substantive rights distinct from Title VII are governed by New York's 3-year personal injury statute under CPLR 214(5). Day v. Morgenthau, 909 F.2d 75, 78 (2d Cir. 1990). The claim accrues when petitioner knows or has reason to know of the injury which is the basis of the action. Barrett v. United States, 689 F.2d 324, 333 (2d Cir. 1982) *cert. denied*, 462 U.S. 1131 (1983). This occurred here when

petitioner received notice of the decision to terminate him from appointment on the Children's Hospital medical staff.

In the instant case, it is undisputed that petitioner received notice of the expiration of his appointment on April 19, 1989. Consequently, a complaint under the aforementioned statutes should have been filed and served on or before April 19, 1992, three years from the date of the alleged injury. The complaint in this matter was filed on or about January 29, 1993, well in excess of the three-year statute. Clearly, Magistrate Heckman's decision and order dismissing those claims is entirely proper.

Moreover, because 42 U.S.C. §1983 provides the exclusive remedy for securing redress of constitutional violation, Turpin v. Mailet, 591 F.2d 426 (2d Cir. 1979) (*en banc*), petitioner's equal protection and due process claims asserted against the CHOB respondents are likewise barred by the Statute of Limitations.

C. Petitioner Failed to Demonstrate any Equitable Reasons for Tolling the Statute of Limitations.

Petitioner alleged a discrepancy in the minutes of the January 12, 1989 Credentials Committee as grounds for tolling the Statute of Limitations. A Statute of Limitations may be tolled or a defendant may be estopped from asserting it as a defense where the defendant's actions evidence misconduct or bad faith which would mislead a plaintiff into delaying the filing of a charge. O'Malley v. GTE Serv. Corp., supra, 758 F.2d at 822. Without any evidence in the record, petitioner baldly asserts that the discrepancy in the minutes is evidence of "bad faith" during the limitations period which requires the application of the principle of equitable estoppel or tolling in order to allow his claims against the CHOB respondents to proceed. Those principles do not apply here. First, petitioner has made no showing that the minutes were

altered by the respondents. Second, there is no evidence in the record that the tampering occurred during the limitations period so as to invoke the "continuing violation" exception to Title VII's stringent time limits. See, LaBeach v. Nestle Co., 658 F.Supp. 676, 686-87 (S.D.N.Y. 1987). Third, there is no evidence linking that action to the CHOB respondents which would have allowed Magistrate Heckman to find that the CHOB respondents should have known that such actions could cause the plaintiff to delay filing his charge. Fourth, even if a discrepancy in the minutes was caused by the CHOB respondents during the limitation period, the letter of April 12, 1989 clearly explains to petitioner that his appointment expired and this application for reappointment was incomplete and he would have to commence the application process anew. Thus, petitioner's assertion that a discrepancy existed in the minutes and evidenced "bad faith" is nothing more than a smoke screen. As of April 1989, petitioner had unequivocal notice of termination. Any discrepancy in minutes which pre-dated that letter is wholly irrelevant and insufficient to serve as a basis for applying the equitable principles of tolling and estoppel.

This record is void of any evidence which would compel a court to apply the principles of equitable estoppel or tolling to allow petitioner's claims to proceed. As Magistrate Heckman noted, petitioner was represented by counsel throughout the matter. His claims that he did not know about the Hospital's discriminatory policies at the time of the April 1989 letter are without any factual support in the record. There is no evidence that the CHOB respondents were guilty of "bad faith" or misconduct in causing a delay in the filing of petitioner's administrative charge of employment discrimination against them. Petitioner did nothing to protect his privileges at Children's Hospital, but relied instead on the grievance and arbitration procedures in the

collective bargaining agreement between his employer SUNY and his unions.[5] In fact, the record contains no evidence that petitioner ever filed a charge with the EEOC or the NYSDHR. Thus, the principles petitioner seeks to invoke could not be applied here in the abstract.

[5] The filing of a grievance with the union also does not toll the 300-day period of filing a charge with the EEOC or the NYSDHR. Electrical Workers v. Robbins & Meyers, Inc., 429 U.S. 229, 236 (1976). Contractual rights under a collective bargaining agreement are independent from the statutory rights under Title VII. *Id.* at 236.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that this Court deny petitioner's petition for a writ of certiorari to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals as neither special nor important reasons exist. Moreover, the District Court's grant of summary judgment to the CHOB respondents was proper and petitioner's attempt at a 60(b)(6) motion for the first time to this Court is untimely and improper.

DATED: BUFFALO, NEW YORK
January 3, 1996

KENNEY, KANALEY, SHELTON,
NOTARO, LIPTAK & LAING, L.L.P.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MAHMOOD M. YOONESSI, M.D.

Petitioner

vs.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, STEVEN B. SAMPLE, WILLIAM R. GREINER, JOHN P. NAUGHTON, MYROSLAW M. HRESCHCHYSHYN, ANTONINA CANAZZI, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO, ROBERT PATTERSON, MILLARD FILLMORE HOSPITAL, GATES CIRCLE, MICHAEL COHEN, TED JEWETT, DEBORAH LICATA, WILLIAM DILLON, PATRICK K. DUFFNER, LEO A. KANE, DANIEL R. PIERONI ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER and COUNTY OF ERIE

Respondents.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
CITY OF BUFFALO) ss.:
COUNTY OF ERIE)

The undersigned being duly sworn deposes and says:

1. That deponent is not a party to the action, is over eighteen years of age and resides in Lancaster, New York.

2. That on the 3rd day of January, 1996, deponent served the annexed BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR CERTIORARI ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO, ROBERT PATTERSON, MICHAEL COHEN, TED JEWETT, DEBORAH LICATA, WILLIAM DILLON, PATRICK K. DUFFNER, LEO A. KANE and DANIEL R. PIERONI on the petition at the address designated by said petitioner and on the attorneys for the co-respondents by depositing a true copy of same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper, in a post office-official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department, within the State of New York as follows:

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Susan Griffith

Sworn to before me this 3rd
day of January, 1996.

Notary Public